THE CLEVELAND
MUSEUM OF ART
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January 29, 1993

Contact: Greg Donley

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART HOSTS A FREE LECTURE ON RECENT EXCAVATIONS OF ANCIENT WEST ASIAN TOWNS
Wednesday, February 17, 5:45 pm
New Jerichos? Recent Research on the Neolithic of Jordan.
Dr. Alan Simmons, Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada
Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, Cleveland Chapter.

At 5:45 pm on Wednesday, February 17, 1993, Professor Alan Simmons, a widely-published scholar with more than 20 years of experience as an archaeological researcher, offers a lecture at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Neolithic societies in ancient West Asia. The Neolithic period begins with the human discovery of agriculture in about 8000 BC and ends with the Bronze Age, some 4500 years later; the exact dates for the period vary considerably according to geography, with some of the earliest advances coming in the Levant (the coastal plain of the eastern Mediterranean—modern Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and, further inland, Jordan). The fame of Jericho, in the Jordan River valley north of Jerusalem, as a source of archaeological clues about civilization's first agricultural societies may soon be eclipsed by discoveries during recent excavations at much larger sites across the Jordan to the north and east such as 'Ain Ghazal and Wadi Shu'eib. Professor Simmons examines how, between 6000 and 7000 BC, these early communities, relatively far inland from the Mediterranean and away from the river, adapted to life on the edge of the desert, balancing nomadic traditions against a new agricultural way of life based on the specific resources at hand—a dichotomy which remains part of the life of the region today. He illustrates his talk with slides of the area's geography, patterns of settlement and cultivation, examples of architecture, and sophisticated artifacts from this pre-ceramic era. The lecture is free and open to the public.

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Seventy-fifth
Anniversary